

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC  
Region 1  
HHS-N-276-2011-00003-C  
Professional Development Award: EBM and the Medical  
Librarian' taught by Connie Schardt  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
D. Samuel Gottesman Library  
1300 Morris Park Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10461-0000  
Voice: 718-430-3108 Fax:718-430-8795  
Nancy R. Glassman  
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NN/LM Project Final Report  
Report Submitted:**

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## **Executive Summary**

The primary goal for this project was to host an 8-hour workshop that would provide librarians with an introduction to principles of evidence-based medicine (EBM). The knowledge and skills gained at the workshop would allow librarians to participate in EBM education programs and initiatives within their institutions.

The initial target population was the librarians at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The population was expanded to include other health sciences librarians in the greater New York area. Announcements were sent out on local library email listservs (METRO, NY-NJ MLA, MARL), and seats were filled on a first come, first served basis. A total of 24 librarians attended the workshop.

The major accomplishments of the workshop can be seen in the ways librarians are using their new skills. At Albert Einstein College of Medicine, librarians have introduced a new EBM searching course to their monthly workshop series, updated and enhanced their web-based EBM research guide, and have reached out to other programs in the College to collaborate on EBM training.

### **Minority Populations Served**

African Americans: No  
American Indians/Alaska Natives: No  
Asian Americans: No  
Hispanics/Latinos: No  
Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders: No  
Other: No

## **Approaches and Interventions Used**

The goals and objectives for this project were to: Understand the EBM process; Construct a well-built clinical query; Identify the key characteristics and pros and cons of the major study designs in medicine; Identify the key validity criteria for therapy, and systematic reviews; Support the institution's EBM initiatives within the medical school curriculum and by offering workshops and creating web-based tutorials; Partner with faculty to educate students and residents.

Einstein librarians identified an MLA-certified EBM trainer, Connie Schardt, and invited her to teach an 8-hour workshop. We also issued invitations to other local librarians to attend. Class size was limited to 25. 6 Einstein librarians attended. 18 librarians from around the region attended.

URL for workshop announcement: <http://libguides.einstein.yu.edu/ebmforlibrarians>

URL for EBM and the Medical Librarian workshop: <http://cech.mlanet.org/node/284>

## **Evaluation Activities**

The original goals and objectives for the workshop were met.

Official MLA CE evaluations were distributed and completed by attendees after the workshop. Feedback was very positive.

Attendees appreciated the fact that the Professional Development Award allowed them to attend this session free of charge.

I would like to survey workshop attendees from other libraries to see what they have done with the knowledge acquired from the workshop. It can take a while to start new initiatives. Early April might be a good time to follow up.

## **Problems or Barriers Encountered**

No major problems or barriers were encountered. Promotion, scheduling, and training went smoothly.

## **Continuation Plans**

The NY-NJ Chapter of MLA used to have an EBM Special Interest Group (SIG) that met several times a year. There was discussion of reviving this SIG, either with in-person or virtual meetings.

Because the workshop was so well attended, Einstein librarians would like to host future CE opportunities for ourselves and our colleagues. So many workshops and meetings take place in Manhattan. It is beneficial when workshops can be held in the Bronx, as well as other parts of New York City.

Einstein librarians will continue to develop their EBM workshops and web-based tools.

## **Impact**

It is still too early to see the full impact of our EBM training. The workshop took place on January 23, 2012. The Einstein Library's first newly-revised EBM Searching workshop is scheduled to take place on March 13.

There are plans at Einstein to introduce an EBM course for 2nd year medical students next year. The library plans to partner with course instructors to teach EBM search skills in class and small-group settings.

Librarians will continue to teach EBM search skills to residency programs at our affiliated hospitals. Content for this training is being fine tuned based on what we learned at our EBM workshop.

## **Lessons Learned**

One unexpected result of this project is that in addition to EBM, we received a lesson in event planning (scheduling, logistics, negotiating with presenter, publicity, attendee management, etc.) These skills will be helpful in planning future library events.

Another unexpected result was that the number of librarians who registered for the workshop far outnumbered the available seats. The workshop filled up within an hour of the initial email announcement. There were 19 names on the waiting list. It would have been nice to find a way to accommodate them.

I would recommend that other libraries apply for Professional Development Awards to host workshops/training. It makes sense to bring in one instructor to train a group. There is always a creative and lively exchange of ideas when librarians with common goals and interests get together.

## **Other**

The URL for the workshop announcement and registration is:  
<http://libguides.einstein.yu.edu/ebmforlibrarians>.

**Attachment 1: AR summary data: Subcontractor activities**